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Coach Horne Honored as MILL Coach of the Year



In his sixth season as the head coach of the Notre Dame Academy Dragons Rob Horne has been honored as Coach of the Year in the Maryland Independent Lacrosse League (MILL) conference. Coach Horne has been a big part of Loudoun County lacrosse for many years. The son of Judge Thomas Horne, who is one of the fathers of lacrosse in Loudoun County, played during his high school years for his father and the Loudoun Llamas. He then went on to play collegiately for Richmond University, and after graduation he returned to coach the Llamas until lacrosse became a varsity sport in Loudoun County. In 2002 Coach Horne took over a fledgling lacrosse program at Notre Dame Academy in Middleburg VA.



Coach Horne has done a masterful job constructing a solid lacrosse program in a school of only 140 boys. In six years he has elevated NDA into the #1 ranked Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) program and a MILL conference regular season championship (undefeated).

Notre Dame Academy under Horne is having a banner year. They have been ranked #1 in the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) polls each week since the beginning of the season and will enter the State tournament as the #1 seed. The Dragons also captured the MILL conference regular season championship by going undefeated in league play; they also captured their second CAC championship. As teams have success so will the individuals on the team. Three of the six seniors on this year's roster will go on to play collegiately next year while several players in the junior class are already being courted by prominent college programs.

Not only has Coach Horne guided his team through the successes of 2007 which are obvious to his peers but he has also taken a program at Notre Dame Academy which started out with sixteen players in 2002, to nearly 60 players in 2007. Part of the reasoning for this great growth is that the players truly love Coach Horne. He is the definition of a player's coach, one that cares about the each and every player not only on the field but in the classroom as well. He challenges his players both mentally and physically by playing the toughest schedule of any team in the area each and every year, he feels that is better prepares each of his players for that next level of play.

Coach Horne has also spent countless hours off the field working with players who have a desire to play collegiately. The senior class of 2007 that he has groomed through his tutelage has six players, three of which will go on to play collegiately (1-DI, 1-DII, 1-DIII). Without his work with each of these players this could not have been possible.

His dedication to the sport he loves does not end after the typical lacrosse season. Coach Horne also co-founded NoVa West Lacrosse where he spends his summers instructing the youth in the area the fundamental skills they will need to become good lacrosse players. He also coaches the NoVa West Crusader select recruiting team which has been instrumental in getting local area high school players exposure which has lead to collegiate lacrosse opportunities.

One other aspect which leaves a lasting impression on his players, parents, opposing coaches and officials is the respect he has for the game. Coach Horne is the definition of "Old School" in that he still thinks it is important to treat this game as a gentleman's sport.